

Amendments to the Claims

1 1. (currently amended) A method for encoding an inter-frame of a
2 compressed video, the inter-frame including a plurality of macroblocks in a
3 predetermined order, each macroblock having an associated motion vector,
4 comprising:
5 identifying, for each current macroblock in the predetermined order, a
6 set of near macroblocks;
7 assigning an index to each near macroblock;
8 determining a difference between the motion vector of the current
9 macroblock and the motion vector of each near macroblocks;
10 sorting the indices of the near macroblocks in order of the differences;
11 appending the sorted indices to the inter-frame, in which the sorted
12 indices are identified by a separation code in the inter-frame.

1 2. (original) The method of claim 1, in which the set of near macroblocks are
2 immediately adjacent to the current macroblock.

1 3. (original) The method of claim 2, in which macroblocks immediately
2 adjacent to the set of near macroblocks are included in the set.

1 4. (original) The method of claim 1, in which the order is a raster scan order.

1 5. (original) The method of claim 1, in which the difference is in terms of a
2 mean squared error.

1 6. (original) The method of claim 1, in which the difference is in terms of an
2 absolute error.

7. (canceled)

1 8. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 transmitting the inter-frame through a noisy channel;
3 decoding the transmitted inter-frame;
4 detecting a lost macroblock in the decoded inter-frame;
5 reading the sorted indices corresponding the lost macroblock;
6 concealing the lost macroblock by one of the motion vectors identified
7 in the sorted indices.

1 9. (original) The method of claim 8, in which the one motion vector is a
2 received motion vector with a smallest difference to the motion vector of the
3 lost macroblock.

1 10. (original) The method of claim 1, in which macroblocks along edges of
2 the inter-frame are replicated adjacently on an outside of the inter-frame to
3 facilitate processing of edge blocks of the current macroblock.